

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

August 8, 2005

6:30 p.m.

All members of Council were present. Chairman Balbier called the meeting to order and stated the purpose was to discuss the finalization of the fire station plans, and immediately after the Council will have a special Council meeting.

Chairman Balbier brought everyone up to speed by saying that the fire station was originally estimated to cost \$3.8 million over 20 years, but the cost went up \$350,000 on site development adding about \$700,000 to the cost, plus 10% on construction materials. The city administration had made proposals to bring it back down to \$4.2 million over 22 years. He said that 29 items have been discussed at the previous meeting and Council wanted to hold the decision until the Fire Chief returned from vacation. He added that last week he and Councilwoman Pucci met with some firemen and went over suggestions, which he said he was agreeable to about 80% of. Three major items were part of the discussion. First was the sliding pole. The firemen want it for its nostalgia and speed. He felt it could result in some injuries. The cost for the pole is \$15,000. Second item was the sauna, for a cost of \$8,000. The firemen (and Chief Duchoslav) told of the health benefits for the main reason of flushing toxins from the body after fires. The third item was the training tower, which seems to be a controversy as the city says it was not in the original plans and the firemen say it was. Chairman Balbier said there are two of them in Cuyahoga County, one at the Cleveland Academy and the other at CCC. This tower represents a cost of \$300,000 plus. Dir. Fisk has done some research. The tower discussed is larger than needed for a city this size. At the very least it needs to be studied and downsized to a \$120,000 to \$150,000 tower. Even if approved, it would not be built until June 2006. Councilman G. Frey suggested the pad be poured and the city or firemen could do more research and then apply for grants in the future. Chief Duchoslav agreed. Chairman Balbier said he had his own item he wanted discussed and that is separate sex locker rooms and doors on the dorm rooms for privacy. Chief Duchoslav expressed possible problems with doors.

Const. Mgr. Riachi asked Council to review all the 29 items on the list and decide what to do with them. Each item was gone over and discussed, with the conclusion on the main items that the skylights in the roof will be an alternate (#18); no sliding pole (#23); the sauna will remain (#24); and agreed on other items being either taken out or left. On the issue of the training tower, there was discussion on where there are towers in the state, along with needs and costs. It was suggested to run the utilities and do grading, and leave off the pad till a later date, then grants could be applied for, or it could be bid separately in the winter or spring, depending how the bids come in on the station. There was further discussion about the tower.

Councilwoman Pucci noted that Council was provided with information about where construction costs went up and why, as residents were asking. There was brief discussion about construction costs. Mr. Casini stated everything went up and he had even used three indexes of construction increases to figure costs – site, retaining walls and grade.

Chairman Balbier said he would like to see doors on the sleeping cubicles for the firefighters, for privacy purposes, and asked for the Chief's thoughts. Chief Duchoslav said he had spoken to Bill Deighton (on the fire station committee) about this matter, and the both agreed that would not be a good thing to do. The Chief explained the bed set-ups, reminded everyone that the doors are staggered across from each other, and said that in a team effort situation like a fire station, it is better to have open doors and cited a few other reasons for it. Councilwoman Brown suggested just doors for the females. Councilwoman Gallagher read comments about the privacy matters for men and women, and also commented on past incidents involving her daughter, the only female firefighter, and citing the lack of leadership in issues her daughter has at the station, and that everyone knows about these issues. She added that on behalf of her daughter she wanted doors. Mrs. Barbara Balbier came into the meeting and added her comments, as a resident, a woman and a mother of three daughters, that she is very adamant on her feelings that there should be a door or curtain or something for privacy. The Fire Chief and the architect will review this matter and devise a solution.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee, and wanting to start the Special Council meeting, **MOTION** by Kathy Pucci, second by John Frey to adjourn. **VOTE RESULTED** Yeas – All. Nays – None.

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Meeting adjourned.

_____ (Secretary)